

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SY-05 A-01
 OPR-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FBO-02 PER-01
 OC-06 CCO-00 /067 W
 -----251530Z 109589 /53

O 251451Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3659
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE
BUMED WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2527

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US
SUBJ: "PROGRESS" APRIL 25

1. PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED TODAY INVOLVE OUR
CONTINUED INABILITY TO GAIN ACCESS TO USIS AND NAMRU PREMISES.
GUARDS POSTED YESTERDAY HAVE REFUSED OUR PERSONAL ENTRANCE.

2. IN CASE OF USIS, IT NOT AT ALL CLEAR WHAT PROBLEM IS.
MOFA OFFICIALS FROM FOREIGN MINISTER ON DOWN HAVE AGREED THAT
PREMISES HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND HAVE ISSUED REPEATED
INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE TO PERMIT ACCESS. PROBLEM IS WORD
HASN'T YET REACHED GUARDS. EARLIER, REP FROM MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION WAS SUPPOSED TO MEE PAO AT ENTRANCE TO
PREMISES, HE DIDN'T SHOW, BUT PAO WAS PREPARED DISCUSS
PROBLEM WITH HIM BUT NOT ALLOW HIM ON PREMISES IF
INTENTION SEEMED TO BE TO INSPECT OR TAKE SOME KIND OF
INVENTORY. IF LATTER, HE WAS TO BE INFORMED THAT MATTER
WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED WITH MOFA (I IN FACT HAVE
SAID AS MUCH TO FONMIN). WE WILL KEEP TRYING.
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3. IN CASE OF NAMRU, MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS
(INCLUDING MINISTER HIMSELF) SHOWED UP EARLY THIS
MORNING AND INDICATED THEY WERE ABOUT TO CARRY OUT
INVENTORY WITHOUT AMERICAN PRESENCE. TWO COMMITTEES
HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR INVENTORY PURPOSES (ADMINIS-
TRATIVE AND TECHNICAL). AUTHORITY FOR THEIR ACTION

WAS SUPPOSEDLY CONTAINED IN 1965 AGREEMENT. WE SUCCEEDED IN BLOCKING THE INVENTORY EFFORT FOR NOW AND PRESUMABLY REFERRING IT TO THE JOINT COMMISSION PROPOSED BY THE FONMIN (SEPTTEL), BUT WE STILL HAVE NOT GAINED ACCESS. I POINTED OUT TO FONMIN THAT WHILE AGREEMENT DOES PROVIDE FOR SURRENDER OF FIXED ASSETS TO EPMG, IT DOES NOT MENTION OTHER ASSETS AND THAT IN ANY CASE THERE WAS USG PROPERTY, PERSONAL EFFECTS, PERSONNEL FILES, ETC. IN THE BUILDING AND I WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY UNILATERAL INVENTORY OF SUCH MATERIAL. WE HOPE WE CAN GET SOMEWHERE USING JOINT COMMISSION, BUT AS OF NOW, COMMISSION HAS NOT MET AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN DIVISION, MOFA, IS ASKING US FOR A LIST OF OUR PROBLEMS WHICH HE CAN PRESUMABLY FARM OUT FOR SOLUTION. WE SHALL SEE.

4. ON OTHER MATTERS, 85 AMERICANS LEFT ON MAC FLIGHT FOR ATHENS THIS MORNING. CLEARANCES HAVE BEEN GRANTED FOR DC-8 TO ADDIS APRIL 27 TO LIFT OUT ALL REMAINING PERSONNEL FROM HERE UNLESS WE CAN GET EXTENSION FOR A HANDFUL OF ADMIN PERSONNEL, AND FOR A C-141 TO ASMARA ALSO APRIL 27 TO LIFT OUT ALL KAGNEW AND CONGEN PERSONNEL. MY MEETING WITH FONMIN WAS CORDIAL ENOUGH ON DETAILS OF PROBLEMS WE FACING, BUT ALMOST UNPRODUCTIVE ON REASONS FOR EPMG ACTIONS IN ORDERING OUT THE VARIOUS EMBASSY ELEMENTS. HE CLEARLY DID NOT WISH TO TALK ABOUT IT AT THIS TIME. HIS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH JOINT COMMISSION SOUNDS HELPFUL AND MAY TURN OUT TO BE. WE SHALL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE. ETHIOPIAN BUREAUCRACY TENDS TO BE VERY SLOW-MOVING. WE WERE AGAIN ASSURED ON SECURITY CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTERS, DESIRE OF EPMG TO FACILITATE THE WITHDRAWAL AND GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT THERE COULD BE SOME EXTENSION ON TIME LIMIT (N.B. VOA, BBC AND PROBABLY OTHERS HAVE BEEN REPORTING THIS MORNING THAT WE HAVE IN FACT BEEN GRANTED AN EXTENSION. MOFA HAS REASSURED US SEVERAL TIMES ON THIS POINT, BUT AS OF NOW HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY GRANTED AN EXTENSION. SUBJECT IS SUPPOSED TO BE RESOLVED BY JOINT COMMISSION. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SEEK GENERAL EXTENSION, HOWEVER. WE ARE SEEKING EXTENSION FOR THREE MAAG, TWO NAMRU AND IF NECESSARY ONE USIS PERSONNEL TO TRY AND CLEAN UP ADMIN MORASS WE ARE HEADING FOR AS MUCH AS THEY CAN, BUT NO OTHERS. REMAINDER OF PERSONNEL WILL BE READY TO GO BOTH HERE AND IN ASMARA ON APRIL 27, AND I BELIEVE THEY SHOULD LEAVE THEN).

5. SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING THIS, WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED AT 1415Z THAT WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED ACCESS TO USIS AND USIS PERSONNEL ARE NOW IN BUILDING. TIENKEN

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